

REMARKS

As required by Examiner, Applicants hereby elect Group I including claims 1-38 and 49-65 drawn to a method for treating a fluorocompound containing gas stream. As a result, among pending claims 1-65, claims 39-48 are withdrawn from consideration.

Examiner asserts that the uniting technical feature of the claimed inventions is “treating a fluorocompound containing gas stream” and such feature is taught by US Patent No. 6,635,228 to Moore et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Moore”) and US Patent No. 6,384,292 to Cripe et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Cripe”). *See, the Office Action, paragraph 4.* However, Applicants respectfully submit that “treating a fluorocompound containing gas stream” is merely an intended objective of the claimed inventions, whereas “conveying to the plasma stream a source of ions... comprising ions selected from the group consisting of OH^- and H^+ ” is more of the technical feature that unites the claimed inventions. The Office Action is silent about whether Moore or Cripe teaches such technical feature. Thus, Applicants respectfully contends that the restriction requirement is improper.

Should Examiner deem that any further clarification is desirable, Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Applicants do not believe that any additional fee is due, but as a precaution, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to deposit account number 50-4244.

Respectfully submitted,

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